



Mr. Joe Louis Franklin

October 9, 1935 - May 15, 2025

FRANKLIN, Mr. Joe Louis - Age 89, passed away Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Haven of Rest, Owosso, MI. Family hour 10:00 AM Saturday, May 31, 2025, at House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church, 1851 W. Carpenter Rd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Interment Evergreen Cemetery, G-3415 E. Hill Rd., Grand Blanc, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home 10:00 AM Saturday. Mr. Franklin will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday, May 30, 2025. Joe Louis Franklin, a great servant leader, was born on October 9, 1935 in Ladd, Arkansas. He was the sixth of eleven children born to James and Gertha (Hawkins) Franklin. His parents named him after the great American boxing champion Joe Louis. Joe was raised on the family farm where he learned the value of hard work and cooperation. Joe's formal education began at the rural Poynter Elementary School. He was an outstanding student and excelled in sports. When he reached high school, football emerged as his favorite sport. A highlight of his career at Merrill High School was leading them to the Negro State Championship in 1956. He was awarded a scholarship to Arkansas AM&N. After a year in college, he decided to pursue the "Warmth of Other Suns." He migrated to Flint, Michigan in 1957 to work for the General Motors Corporation. Once his status was stabilized, he sent for his high school sweetheart, Lorine Harmon. The two were married on January 20, 1958. They raised a family of four outstanding Beecher Buccaneers: Richard (Ricky), Michael, Kenneth and Renee Harmon.

After a few years as a production worker at GM, Joe was elevated to the plant security division. He served with distinction until his retirement in 1992. He then became the Security Director for the Beecher Community School District. His presence was welcomed by students, staff and the community. If you wanted a soliloquy, Joe was not your guy. Like his namesake Joe Louis, he was a man of few words. However, when he spoke it was usually profound and powerful. Despite his stern appearance, he had a unique sense of humor and enjoyed a good laugh. Joe was a pillar of leadership in the Beecher Men's Club and Ladies' Auxiliary. He demonstrated his commitment to young people through his actions not just his words. He spent over forty years as a little league coach and referee. During his tenure, Joe L. guided the Zink Mustangs to numerous basketball and football championships. The Zink vs. Dailey rivalry was mythological. His former players compared him to Mike Tomlin, Bill Belichick and Tom Izzo. Three of the most successful athletes from his program who went on to professional sports were Stefon Jones, Roy Marble, and Courtney Hawkins. Franklin served as a trustee of the Beecher Board of Education for twenty years. He led the district through difficult times emerging with balanced budgets and increased academic achievement. Every board member respected him for his integrity and openness. He received numerous awards and accolades that covered the walls of his home. His contributions to the community will be remembered by the Joe L. Franklin sidewalk and the Joe L. Franklin Education & Technology Center. His leadership in the Kennedy Estates Block Club led to the acquisition of subdivision entrance markers. His mantra was "Our job is to ensure that every student has an opportunity for the best educational experience possible." After fifty years, Joe and Lorine left the Beecher community and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina and resided there for eight years. They returned to the Flint area in 2022. Thursday, May 15, 2025 Joe Louis Franklin made his transition. This left a void in the pantheon of Beecher Community leaders. Whether you knew him as Mr. Franklin, Joe, Dad, Granddad, the Godfather or the Ayatollah, his positive impact cannot be overstated. He was a friend, mentor and a role model for the entire

community. Joe L. Franklin was preceded in death by his parents James and Gertha Franklin; siblings: Benjamin, Matthew, Wiley, Myrtle, Ezell, Cornelius, Robert Lee and Eddie. His loving wife Lorine joined him in the after life on May 22, 2025. Joe Louis Franklin is survived by his sisters: Ruby Jean (Burton, MI), Jannie Mae Washington (Oak Park, MI); sons: "Ricky" (Janice) (Lake Spivey, GA), Michael (Charlotte, NC), Kenneth (Trina) (Farmington Hills, MI), daughter: Renee (Stuttgart, AR); his grandchildren: DeAndre (Newberry, FL), Rikketta (Edgemoor, SC), Jovan (Burton, MI), Kenneth Jr. (Farmington Hills, MI) and great-grandson Elijah (Newberry, FL) along with a host of friends and relatives.

Services can be lived stream at:

https://www.youtube.com/live/eEbKHZrO6Nk?si=03h-P1foWN_IK9Yp

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

G-3415 E. Hill Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Previous Events

Lie In State

MAY 30. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

MAY 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church
1851 W. Carpenter Rd.
Flint, MI

Service

MAY **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church
1851 W. Carpenter Rd.
Flint, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruthi Hill lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Ruthi Hill - June 10, 2025 at 09:36 AM

JF

“ To My Dearly Beloved Family,

In my giving many thank you's to you all, I unfortunately and regrettably left three (3) very important people out. With great apologies, my addendum stands corrected as follows:

Jannie,

I thank you for being a wonderful older sister to my favorite father-in-law, and a good sister-in-law to my precious sweet and funny mother-in-law!!!

Elijah,

I thank you because you are a quiet gentle giant and a great and wonderful great-grandson, because you are a good son to my stepson and I truly love the love that you and D'Andre share together. It is a vicarious gift that spreads. Thank You Again!!!

Sariah Jean,

Thank you, little sweet one. You are a breath of fresh air and newness! You are right on time. You are the first face of the next generation of the Franklins, the first great-great grandchild of the Franklin legacy. There is so much in that name. So wear it well and proud as we all do because we to are "ALL FRANKLIN BUILT AND FRANKLIN STRONG!!!"

Janice Franklin - June 02, 2025 at 07:51 AM

JF

“ To My Dearly Beloved Family,

In my giving thanks to all of you, I unfortunately and regrettably left three (3) very important people out. With great apologies, my addendum stands corrected as follows:

Jannie,

Thanks for being a wonderful older sister to my favorite father-in-law, and wonderful sister-in-law to my favorite mother-in-law.

Elijah,

Thanks to you too for being a very good great-grandson to my favorite father-mother-in-law. You are truly a wonderful son to my wonderful and very sweet stepson. I love the love you two (2) HAVE AND SHARE together. Sooooo, IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT YOU ARE AN OUTSTANDING FATHER TO SARIAH JEAN. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

And last but certainly not least, SARIAH JEAN,

Thanks to you, our sweet fresh air, our new addition to a new generation of the Franklin family. I'm sure you will make your great-great grandparents proud. There is so much in the FRANKLIN name. And like you, and the rest of the Franklin family, WE WEAR IT WELL!!!

Janice Franklin - June 01, 2025 at 01:00 PM

PM

“ Pat Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin



Pat Moore - May 30, 2025 at 07:00 PM

JF

“ For My Favorite Family-in-laws:

I wish that I could have been in Flint with you all at such a time as this. Nevertheless, you all have my condolences and personal empathy that runneth over and that abounds forever.

Ruby,

"Kudos" to you because you showed up again and again and again. What a "REWARD" you will have in this lifetime!!! Hebrews 13:2 comes to my mind when I think of YOU!

Renee,

Thank you for being a great-in-law that always seem to be able to keep your cool amongst life's unexpected/unexpectives :) you know what I mean 'cause you are smart like that and you like to laugh and joke like that. :)

Kenny,

Thank you for being the "boots on the ground" at every turn especially in the last year of my favorite-in-law health care concerns. You are "DEFINITELY FRANKLIN BUILT AND FRANKLIN STRONG!!!"

Michael,

Thank you for being the "cornerstone and GPS for my awesome-in-laws while they resided in Charlotte. You navigated them for over five years on unfamiliar ground. You too are "DEFINITELY FRANKLIN BUILT AND FRANKLIN STRONG!!!"

AND MY RICKY,

I've seen you do many wondrous things for which one of them was marrying me :), but next to that, I've seen you move TWO OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL "MOUNTAINS" TOGETHER FOREVER TO ANOTHER PLACE FOREVER. YOU TOO ARE "FRANKLIN BUILT AND FRANKLIN STRONG [YOU KNOW, LIKE A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK]" :) SOMETIMES YOU NEVER KNOW THE STRENGTH OF A PERSON UNTIL YOU SEE THE STRENGTH OF THE PERSON MOVE MOUNTAINS AND NEVER FLINCH!!!

D' Andre, Ricketta, Jovon, and Kenny, Jr., you ALL were your grandparents' delight and pride. All of their grandchildren are " COLLEGE EDUCATED and living productive lives!!!

I LOVE YOU ALL MUCH AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!

Janice Franklin - May 30, 2025 at 06:51 PM

RF

Thank you for your kind words during this time.

Rikketta Franklin - June 02, 2025 at 08:16 AM

TA

“ Timothy, Mark & Angela Andrews purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin.



Timothy, Mark & Angela Andrews - May 30, 2025 at 12:56 PM

TL

“ The Silver Soul Sliders with Love purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin.



The Silver Soul Sliders with Love - May 30, 2025 at 11:57 AM

TL

“ The Silver Soul Sliders with Love planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin.

The Silver Soul Sliders with Love - May 30, 2025 at 11:57 AM

JF

“ Mr. Franklin was the kind of man that you "can" and "would" appreciate sooner or later in your life. The kind of man that "commanded" respect at all times. When you left his presence, you did not have to guess what he meant because his "YES" meant only "YES," and his "NO" meant only "NO." He was a "Force" on a "Mission" to help all young boys [especially black boys] succeed in life [and not necessarily in sports] regardless of their life's advantages or disadvantages. He knew that an interest in a sport early enough could/would be a conduit to learning other life skills like teamwork, consistency, goal setting.... This one man embodied soooo many attributes. As it is written "Many are called, but few are Chosen." Could this be why there is a building in Beecher with his name on it? Even his name, "Joe Louis," is referential to another famous Joe Louis whose name is on a building and his footprints too are in the annals of time through "ALL" those they touched [kind of like that of "exponential legacies" in perpetuity]. Simply put, he is the gift that keeps on giving! Hmmmmm, when all is said and done, isn't that what a good man--a good Christian--a good friend--a great father--a great Husband-- and a great "COACH" does? My dearly beloved "FATHER-IN-LAW," A "COACH" AMONG COACHES AND MY FRIEND!!!

Janice McMullan Franklin - May 30, 2025 at 09:24 AM

FM

“ I am sorry to hear about the passing of Mr Franklin. He was great boss when I worked at Beecher High in 1998. He was good friend with my dad at GM and great neighbor to my Cousin Johnny Allen. My condolences and prayers to his family and Joe Franklin was Mr Beecher indeed.

Freddie E McCoy - May 29, 2025 at 09:42 PM

DJ

“ My condolences to the Franklin family. Mr. Franklin served our neighborhood, John F. Kennedy Estates well. The Zink Mustangs football team was formed under his leadership. My brother played for the team. Mr. Franklin led by example. He touched the lives of many young boys and men in our community. When I returned back to Flint, his presence in the Beecher Community was still strong. To the sons thank you for sharing your Dad with others. Mr. Franklin thank you sir, for your selflessness. It is now time to be present with the Lord! Family, May the Lord God comfort your hearts and surround you with peace.
The Jackson Family

Debra Jackson - May 29, 2025 at 01:47 AM

SW

“ *Shirie Wade lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Shirie Wade - May 28, 2025 at 07:21 PM

PS

“ *Pamala Simpson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Pamala Simpson - May 28, 2025 at 07:11 PM

CE

“ *Christina Ebarb lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Christina Ebarb - May 28, 2025 at 01:53 PM

BF

“ *Bruce and Tonya Franklin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin.*



Bruce and Tonya Franklin - May 28, 2025 at 08:46 AM

BF

“ *Bruce and Tonya Franklin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin.*

Bruce and Tonya Franklin - May 28, 2025 at 08:46 AM

SJ

“ *Spencer Eason Jr lit a candle in memory of Joe Franklin*



Spencer Eason Jr - May 27, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JS

“ *Jacqueline Scott lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Jacqueline Scott - May 27, 2025 at 09:15 AM

VL

“ *I am very sorry to hear about a double loss to the Franklin family Coach Joe helped develop many good athletes in the Beecher District and was a pillar to the community and Lorene was kind and she and mama took walks together and had good conversations and me and Michael been knowing each other since elementary. So I am very sorry to hear this bad news my deepest most sincere prayers are with the entire Franklin family. God bless and may he be with the family in comfort and love.*

Vincent Lewis - May 26, 2025 at 10:11 PM

MR

“ *MICHELLE N ROBINSON lit a candle in memory of Joe Franklin*



MICHELLE N ROBINSON - May 24, 2025 at 05:02 PM

MH

“ I have very fond memories of Mr Franklin my dad worked with Mr Franklin for many years and they were friends to this day! Mr Franklin and his son Rickey use to beat my dad and I in hoops! But it was always a good time interacting! Mr Franklin will be missed and I will great memories of him!

*Michael Harris
Atlanta Ga*

Michael Harris - May 23, 2025 at 10:45 PM

JH

“ James And Carolyn Hudson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin



James and Carolyn Hudson - May 23, 2025 at 10:42 PM

PW

“ Pat Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin



pat williams - May 23, 2025 at 06:36 PM

MF

“ *Mama Lois Cunningham Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Mama Lois Cunningham family - May 23, 2025 at 03:47 PM

MC

“ *MS Lois Ann Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



MS Lois Ann Cunningham - May 23, 2025 at 03:46 PM

R-

“ *Regina Kennard -Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Regina Kennard -Williams - May 22, 2025 at 10:05 PM

EM

“ *Sending my prayers and condolences to the family. RIH MR.FRANKLIN you fought a good fight and kept the Faith , take your rest my brother in Christ*



Earline Gladney McFadden - May 22, 2025 at 01:12 PM

CK

“ *Camellia Key lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Camellia Key - May 21, 2025 at 07:36 PM

BK

“ *My sincere condolences to his family. Joe was truly a great Friend, coworker and he was my son's (Craig Kimble) very first football coach at Zink Elementary. He certainly will be missed...🙏*



Brenda Kimble - May 21, 2025 at 01:15 PM

JD

“ *Joyce Davis lit a candle in memory of Joe Franklin*



Joyce Davis - May 21, 2025 at 09:15 AM

MB

“ *Maria (Hopkins) Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Maria (Hopkins) Brown - May 20, 2025 at 07:41 PM

VW

“ *May the prayers and love of friends and family carry you through your grief. Condolences from Violet Warner-Eldridge and Family.*



Violet Warner-Eldridge - May 20, 2025 at 06:18 PM

LP

“ *Lynda Pitts lit a candle in memory of Joe Franklin*



Lynda Pitts - May 20, 2025 at 10:56 AM

CD

“ *Praying for his family*



Cindy Duncan - May 20, 2025 at 08:05 AM

SB

“ *Uncle Joe, thank you for spending time with us on the weekends. Thank you for taking the time, you time to be a blessing to us. We have always honored and cherished you for loving us. The children of your brother, Matt. Blessings 🙏*

Sharon Berry - May 19, 2025 at 10:20 PM

IH

“ *Iris Hare lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Iris Hare - May 19, 2025 at 09:36 PM

VE

“ *In memory of the life and legacy of a man whose presence was a cornerstone of our community. To the Franklin family, our sincerest condolences and gratitude for sharing Mr. Franklin with the Beecher community.*
Richard & Venus Allen



Venus - May 19, 2025 at 08:55 PM

CP

“ *I send my condolences to you my friend and your family during these difficult times. Have faith and know that the journey does not end here.*

Carnell Poindexter - May 19, 2025 at 07:05 PM

HF

“ *The first word that came to me moments ago when I learned of his passing was decency. Joe was an immensely decent person.*
Harold Ford

Harold Ford - May 19, 2025 at 04:40 PM

LM

“ *Lanita Murray Marion lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Lanita Murray Marion - May 19, 2025 at 04:28 PM

AD

“ *Rest well Mr. Franklin, and to the entire Family, my deepest heartfelt condolences*



Alisa Carol Dyson - May 19, 2025 at 03:08 PM

JC

“ *Me Franklin was an outstanding LEADER in my youth he help our Track Program at Beecher High School in the 70's was a very fine Gentleman*



James L Carr - May 18, 2025 at 11:48 PM



“ *Marjorie Chapman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Marjorie Chapman - May 18, 2025 at 03:41 PM

FR

“ Fred lit a candle in memory of Joe Franklin



Fred - May 18, 2025 at 07:39 AM

J(

“ James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - May 17, 2025 at 05:29 PM

VS

“ Valerie C Southall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin



Valerie C Southall - May 16, 2025 at 08:01 PM

AD

“ My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during their time of bereavement!



AC Dumas - May 16, 2025 at 10:56 AM

MD

“ *Min. Shelton Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Min. Shelton Davis - May 15, 2025 at 10:34 PM

AA

“ *Sending prayers and love to the Franklin Family. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin were my neighbors and like a second set of parents to me. Truly a legend. What an honor to know such an incredible man and family. Sincere condolences.*

Angela Andrews - May 15, 2025 at 10:11 PM

RS

“ *Rosetta Simpson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Rosetta Simpson - May 15, 2025 at 08:14 PM

TW

“ *Mr. Franklin was a great Boss, Life teacher, father when needed! May you rest in peace! My condolences to the family!.. My heart goes out to all of you! Much love*



Tamora Watson - May 15, 2025 at 07:33 PM

JF

“ *Jody & Terry Franklin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Joe Louis Franklin*



Jody & Terry Franklin - May 15, 2025 at 04:20 PM